

swung as on a hinge. The column is winged and curved—spotted with purple and crimson.

The insect which pollinates the Leafless Orchid is a mystery. The claw of the labellum suggests that the insect alights on the tip of the middle lobe and thus weighs down the labellum, opening wide the tube to the heart of the flower. The clubbed calli offer firm foot grips and the insect moves forward. As it does so it passes the point of equilibrium of the balanced labellum, and its own weight pulls the labellum closer against the column. When the insect backs out that balancing point is reached much nearer the tip of the labellum since the insect's weight holds it close to the column. It is only after the insect brushes past the stigma and the anthers that the labellum swings open again, freeing the insect for flight to another flower. As its back touches the stigma it deposits there any pollinia it may bear. Walking backwards further it will brush past the anthers and collect from them another pollinia ready for the next orchid visited.

This is the way that small native bees (*Euryglossa rejecta*) pollinate *Caladenia filamentosa* and thus have I seen flies pollinate *Caladenia Patersonii*. Both these orchids have a claw and hinged labellum. But they call for the exact agent since one too small will escape without accomplishing the flower's desires and one too heavy will remain a prisoner.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Thornbill Notes.—Mr. Sedgwick's note on the distribution of the Chestnut-tailed Thornbill in the April issue of the *Naturalist* prompts me to add an observation that adds extensively to its range as given in Serenty and Whittell's *Birds of Western Australia*. The bird was observed at Bolgart, foraging in jam thickets in company with Weebills, Brown Thornbills, Grey Fantails and Red-eapped Robins.

The Brown Thornbill deceived me while I was intent on tracing some Rufous Whistlers. It whistled one of their notes, "sweet, swt-swt-swt," more faintly but a perfect copy of the Whistlers, which were using the same notes nearby.

—(Mrs.) RICA ERICKSON, "Fairlea," Bolgart.

How Young Ducks Leave Elevated Nests.—On September 9, 1946 Mr. Frank Paterson, of Coolup, described to me the first and only instance he had seen of a Black Duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*) bringing its young down from a nest in a hollow tree. He had just witnessed the incident. He was broadcasting superphosphate in a cleared field with a few scattered trees when he noticed a duck fly down to the ground from a nesting hollow. The bird walked about on the ground at the base of the tree calling and he was amazed to see the little ducklings one after another fall down from the hollow. He was some 40 or 50 yards away when the duck flew down but when the last duckling arrived on the ground

he was only about 15 yards away. Despite having dropped 25 feet the ducklings raced off with their mother towards a drain some 300 yards away. Mr. Paterson has been keenly interested in birds for over 50 years and was born and bred in the district and yet he never saw a duck bring down its young until this recent occasion.

—ANGUS ROBINSON, "Yanjettee," Coolup.

Ovalides reticularis, a fish new to Western Australia.—Mr. A. J. Fraser (Chief Inspector of Fisheries) has presented to the Museum a small blowfish caught at the foot of East Street, Fremantle, in the Swan River estuary on May 23, 1949. On examination this proves to be a young Striped Blowfish, *Ovalides reticularis* (Bloeh and Schneider), a species known to occur in the seas of India, the East Indies, New Guinea and Queensland but not previously recorded from our waters. The fish measures 118 mm. (about 4½ in.) in total length, and is lenticular in shape, its body tapering equally to both head and tail, in this way differing from our common blowfishes. Its colour above is dark blue-grey with numerous small whitish spots; on the sides of the face, around the pectoral fins and on the under surface white predominates over numerous dark blue-grey stripes which encircle the pectorals and are more or less longitudinal on the face and the under surface of the body. The fins are greyish with dark edges but the fleshy base of the dorsal is snow-white.

—L. GLAUERT, W.A. Museum.

Larder Habits of the Grey Butcher-bird.—We have had two Grey Butcher-birds (*Cracticus torquatus*) coming to our place for the past four years. Today (June 27, 1949) they made their first appearance since February. They usually return in June after leaving with their young in February. We have a peach tree growing close to our back verandah. With the heavy crop of fruit several limbs have broken off, leaving splintered points. I feed the birds on pieces of meat and they have learnt what will happen when they see me walking to the meat safe with the knife. They know I will place about 12 pieces on the verandah table. After I step back one bird comes down and after eating two pieces he starts to place piece after piece in the splintered points of the broken peach limbs until the whole lot is gone. In the meantime the other bird is helping itself. The birds pull the pieces of meat down between the splinters tight with their beaks so that they will not drop off with the wind. While I am writing this one bird flew off with a big piece after having placed a few in the tree.

—W. L. GRANT, Collie.

Red-capped Robin Influx.—Following on the note in the last number (p. 21) of the observation of a male Red-capped Robin (*Petroeca goodenovii*) between Lake Mealup and the south shore of Peel Inlet on May 14, the following reports have been received of